

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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COLLEGE STUDENT AMONG THOSE ARRESTED IN FAKE ID BUST TODAY

SAN DIEGO – A lengthy investigation led by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) resulted today in the arrest of a California State University, San Diego student and another young man for allegedly operating a fake ID production mill. Phony driver's licenses were seized in an early morning raid along with equipment and materials used in the production of fake ID's.

Arrested was 23-year old Ryan Anthony Izzo, a San Diego State student living in Pacific Beach who is believed to be the manufacturer of the phony documents. Also arrested was James Cheung, 21, of Mission Valley, who sold the fake ID's to undercover ABC investigators.

"False identification documents such as those uncovered during our operation are used to facilitate fraudulent activity, including identity theft and underage drinking," said ABC Director Jerry R. Jolly. "These kind of phony documents are intended to help people break the law."

Working with ABC in the investigation were the California Highway Patrol, San Diego Police Department, the University of California-San Diego police department, Department of Motor Vehicles and the Regional Crime Forensic Lab. The bust came after a lengthy undercover operation that began in November of 2002, during which time undercover investigators purchased several fake ID's, ranging in price from \$100 to \$120.

ABC Investigators say underage minors were purchasing the fake ID's in order to gain access into San Diego-area nightclubs and to purchase of alcoholic beverages. Computers that were also seized today will be checked for any possible connection to identity theft or check fraud.

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